

Remarks

Because of the lengthy proceedings in the present application, Bernard Berman met with Supervisory Primary Examiner Carl Whitehead Jr. to discuss the then outstanding rejections, which remain at issue in this application. The substance of those discussions is reflected in the remarks presented in the reply to the Office Action dated May 31, 2006, which are repeated here by reference.

During the interview Mr. Berman noted his extensive background in the pertinent art and his qualifications as a person of skill in this art. He further pointed out that any other ordinarily skilled person reading the cited art would recognize that the gaps shown in the principal figure of the art could not be made by the process described therein and therefore such art does not and cannot anticipate or make obvious the uniformly shaped air-gaps of the instant application.

Mr. Berman noted that he had carefully reviewed the cited art and the figure that depicts a uniformly shaped gap between adjacent conductive traces having near perpendicular profiles. Based upon the art's description of the process employed for dielectric deposition, he stated that there was no deposition method known at the time such art was created that could have formed such a structure. Furthermore, he stated that even with the advances in deposition technology that have become known today, it is still impossible for such a uniformly shaped structure to be formed by deposition. Still further he noted that these statements are facts widely known to those of ordinary skill in the art and such knowledge is demonstrated by and through the several recent publications.

Examiner Whitehead indicated that a declaration supporting the foregoing, by Mr. Berman as one having skill in the art, would be viewed favorably and would overcome the prior art rejections.

To that end, submitted herewith is the declaration of Mr. Berman. In view of the declaration and for the reasons set forth in the reply to the Office Action dated May 31, 2006, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

This application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early issuance of a notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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